

GLOBAL STRATEGY | AUGUST 2022

A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace, and Security

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network
Nile and Beyond Global Strategy 2022-2027



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The Blue Nile at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Image by Bahirdar Dronning.

Contents

Interactive Infographic – Women in Water Diplomacy Strategy.....	5
The 2022 Global Women in Water Diplomacy Network Joint Statement:.....	6
Executive Summary: A path forward for women, water, peace, and security	8
A Persistent Challenge is Now a Crisis.....	10
Our Shared Response: Nile and Beyond Strategy Development and Consultation Process	11
Women in Water Diplomacy Network Mission	17
Women in Water Diplomacy Network Objectives	17
Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Theory of Change.....	18
Core Values and Guiding Principles	19
Expected Results	19
Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategic Pillars	21
Pillar 1: Gender and Youth Empowerment in transboundary water decision making	21
Pillar 2: Peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and experience exchange	23
Pillar 3: Research Cooperation.....	24
Pillar 4: Linkages to basin, regional and global processes	27
Cross-cutting Pillar 5: Process Support	28
Women in Water Diplomacy Network Governance Snapshot	30
Nile and Beyond Strategic Partners.....	31
Annexes:	38
Annex 1: Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council and Process Support Team	38
Annex 2: Women in Water Diplomacy Inception and Development Report 2013- 2021	39
Annex 3: Additional Resources of Relevance	39
Annex 4: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs)	40
Annex 5: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Principles of Feminist Foreign Policy.....	41
Annex 6: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda	43
Endnotes:	44

THE **OVERARCHING GOAL** OF THE **WOMENS WATER DIPLOMACY NETWORK** IS:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN HIGH-LEVEL DECISION MAKING IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

Which will be achieved through **objectives** and **activities**, defined within **five strategic pillars**.

Hover over each pillar, to find out more about its objectives and activities.

PILLAR 1
**GENDER AND YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT**

PILLAR 2
**PEER-TO-PEER
LEARNING**

PILLAR 3
**RESEARCH
COOPERATION**

PILLAR 4
**LINKAGES
TO BASIN**

PILLAR 5
PROCESS SUPPORT



The 2022 Global Women in Water Diplomacy Network Joint Statement:

'A Rising Tide' of support for women in water diplomacy

For Release 30 Aug 2022; Stockholm, Sweden at World Water Week

With gratitude and recognition to the many women, water experts, diplomats, and leaders that paved the way before us, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network shares this Global Network Statement on the occasion of the launch of the Network's Nile and Beyond Strategy at the 2022 World Water Week.

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network is an informal community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women decision-makers and experts, representing over 500 years of collective experience and expertise in transboundary water management and decision making engaged in some of the most water insecure regions of the world. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network holds a cooperative vision recognizing the unique and intrinsic social, cultural, environmental, and economic values of the transboundary water resources that traverse the landscapes of our one shared planet. Despite challenges, we are bound together and jointly recognize the significant benefits that can result from improved transboundary water cooperation. Guided by our shared objectives, we discuss common challenges, share experience, enhance understanding of each other and our countries' perspectives, build trust, and support one another to seek mutually beneficial opportunities for cooperation **to achieve sustainable water for all**.

Shared surface and ground water resources unite and link our communities and lives in times of abundance and in times of scarcity. For communities who know well the deep insecurities of political conflict and non-cooperation as well as the true values of peace, increasing water and climate insecurities add a challenging complexity to already deeply consequential transboundary water relations. Sadly, water-insecure 'hotspots' are found on every continent today affecting the lives of roughly a third of humanity. Shared water resources that support, sustain, and enrich communities and nature, and drive economies in all corners of the world, **are reaching critical conditions**.

Women and children from vulnerable communities are bearing a heavy and disproportionate burden for unsustainable water management. Yet, women experts and decision makers are far from equally represented in transboundary water management decision making processes. While it has long been recognized that women play an essential role in both, the provision, management, and safeguarding of water resources, and all scales of development and peacebuilding processes, including conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, rigid barriers restricting women's equal participation and influence persist.

The essential value of water to peace and human security spurs us to elevate our voices and knowledge in *a global rising tide* of water experts, peacemakers, mediators, and stewards. As leaders we know this to be true - **sustainable water for all is foundational to a peaceful, secure, resilient shared-future and to the full and effective enjoyment of human rights.**

Many women water diplomats are currently at the innovative fore of efforts to advance cooperative and inclusive transboundary water governance solutions in some of the most vulnerable countries and communities around the world. As decision makers and experts, we, members and supporters of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, stress the urgency of action needed to address our shared water and climate challenges and, we commit, in our capacity as water leaders, to continue to work together to further this cooperation. **Through our collective strength and support to each other we affirm that a rising tide does, indeed, raise all. We ask you to meet our commitments with yours.**

To the young water diplomats, we have not forsaken future generations. The burden of sustainable development is not yours alone. We recommit to our shared responsibility to future generations – ours, yours, and those that will follow – by **ensuring young leaders are actively involved in water and climate decision making.**

To our brothers, we are grateful to those among you who even from a place of power conscientiously examine assumptions and who share our convictions. We invite your partnership and championship in **actively removing barriers to gender equality, enabling, and encouraging inclusive decision making.**

To our colleagues and peers, local, national, regional, global decision makers and development partners, we call upon you to commit political, financial, and other resources to frontline women water diplomats and stakeholders around the world to ensure that **all of society's** available skills, experience, and resources are represented and empowered to meet our shared water and climate challenges.

We all must take urgent and coordinated action to remove gendered barriers to equal participation and influence in water, peace, and security dialogues.

In partnership, the members and supporters of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.



The recurrently updated list of supporters of the 2022 'A Rising Tide' Statement can be found at <https://siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network>

Executive Summary: A path forward for women, water, peace, and security

In the last decade, shared understanding, and knowledge of the critical and multi-dimensional values of transboundary water resources for communities, ecosystems, and sustainable development has gained important attention. Central to this growing foundation of knowledge has been an evolving understanding of the vital linkages and interactions between *water, peace, and security*. The Water, Peace, and Security Agenda, driven by a range of leading global institutions in various formal and informalⁱ channels, seeks to identify, understand, address, and potentially prevent water-related security risks. In parallel, this last decade has been instrumental in advancing understanding and knowledge and tools for assessing the complex interactions between *women, peace and (human) security*. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda, likewise driven by a range of committed actors, countries and institutions, both formal and informal, affirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building initiatives and advocates for the equal representation of women in all aspects of peace and security.ⁱⁱ Both the Water, Peace and Security Global Tool developed by the [Water, Peace, Security partnership \(WPS\)](#) and [Women, Peace and Security Index](#) present alarming trends. Water insecurity is expected to continue to rise, directly affecting millions of people the world over, while globally, women's social and political participation have 'slowed and disparities have widened across countries.'ⁱⁱⁱ

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network stands at the confluence of the water, peace and security and the women, peace, and security agendas, supporting women's leadership in dialogue and peace mediation processes in boundary crossing basin communities – in the Nile Basins and in Networks in Central Asia & Afghanistan and 'Beyond'. **The Women in Water Diplomacy Network advocates for, and is itself a tangible expression of, the mutual gains to be had by focusing on the strategic linkages of women, water, peace, and security.** As long-time champions of gender equality know well, the constant advocacy needed to support and defend the equal participation and influence of the underrepresented can bear personal costs if taken up alone. Through the positive visibility of collective action, an often-difficult path walked for years, is now, for those involved, a place of empowerment.

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network has evolved greatly since its first Network Forum in Uganda in 2017. While the Network continues to draw knowledge and inspiration from other women's networks advancing gender equality in various channels – the Women in Water Diplomacy Network is itself inspiring new communities of practice in shared water basins across Africa and beyond. The

Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security presented here has been developed following years of co-creation with the Network members and supporters, including a specific six-month consultation period launched in December 2021 and leverages the *more than 500 years of collective transboundary water management experience in the Network*. The Women in Water Diplomacy's Nile and Beyond Strategy will serve as a evolving guide for the Network's development over the coming five years in the Nile Basin, Central Asia and Afghanistan and in other new basin communities 'beyond' who join with us along the way. Through the strategy, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network invites and welcomes other communities of practice and partners to join us in our shared objective to change the status quo and support the '*Rising Tide*' of women in water diplomacy.

Join Us!

Elizabeth A. Koch, on behalf of the Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team

A Persistent Challenge is Now a Crisis: Enduring barriers to gender equality in water, peace and security dialogues and decision making

Water insecurity has reached severe levels in many regions already suffering from conflict insecurities. Of the world's 17 most water-scarce countries, 12 are located in the Middle East and North Africa.^{iv} The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has identified "hotspot" water basins with critical levels of water stress and where demographic and climatic conditions are likely to exacerbate "*hydro-political risks*" further.^v **The Nile Basin tops the alarming list of water insecure 'hotspots'. But the Nile is not alone.**

Major transboundary rivers that support, sustain, and enrich communities and nature, and drive economies in all corners of the world are crossing critical threshold conditions – with vulnerable communities, women, and young people on all sides already bearing the often-unbearable price of water

insecurity. Many women water diplomats are at the frontline of efforts to advance cooperative and inclusive transboundary water governance solutions in some of the most vulnerable countries and communities around the world. The development of cooperative, sustainable and equitable transboundary water-related agreements to govern transboundary surface and groundwaters is foundational to ensure *sustainable water for all*. **Moreover, the meaningful participation of women at all scales of development and peacebuilding processes, including conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, is essential for a resilient and peaceful future.**

'I want to contribute to raise women's awareness and have them involved in decision making about water issues. It is a national security issue to have the whole of society engaged in water decision making processes.'

Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile

Gender inclusive peace processes have been found to last longer and be more resilient and peace agreements endorsed by women are more positively related to durable agreements. Ensuring inclusive water governance practices increases the likelihood of developing sustainable, long-lasting, and equitable solutions. Despite these long-held principles, **evidence indicates a persistent gender gap in the water sector generally and the transboundary water sector specifically.**

Around the world, the water and climate crisis is informing critical decision making and negotiations with implications for peace and human security for generations to come. The situation has reached daunting proportions with climate change projected to trigger droughts and floods, impact food and water availability, and fan

social tensions triggering conflicts and migration. The persistent failure to date to include women equitably in transboundary water-related peace processes, decision making and agreements at various scales is not a guidepost for the future.

Our Shared Response: Nile and Beyond Strategy Development and Consultation Process

Drawing inspiration from the Sustainable Development Goals, the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda (see Annexes 4, 5, 6 for respective strategic alignment details), as well as requests for engagement from women water diplomats in the Nile Basin, the [Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile](#) was launched in 2017 by SIWI's [Shared Waters Partnership programme](#). To-date, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network has engaged in coalition building and dialogue, serving as a community of practice for key actors representing decision making roles, largely Ministries of Water and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other related line ministries from basin states, to support each other in increasing women's participation in transboundary water decision making processes.^{vi}

The Network enables Members to get to know one another, learn from each other, share experience and build cross-border relationships and trust while collectively elevating the importance of inclusive decision making in transboundary water governance. Members of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network are



directly engaged in a range of ongoing formal transboundary water and climate-related peace process/agreements.^{vii} Members serve in diverse, official roles/functions from technical advisory roles, to administrator, mediator or negotiator roles at various scales and stages of transboundary management and negotiations in fragile and conflict sensitive regions of the world.^{viii} Network Members are specifically engaged in dialogues of critical importance to peace and human security in the Nile Basin, including, for example, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) negotiations ongoing between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, and of strategic importance to all Nile Basin countries.^{ix}

Water Diplomacy Tracks

Conventionally (water) diplomacy is seen as high-level interaction and dialogue between nation-states. Diplomacy is now defined according to various tracks which vary in terms of formality, actors involved, and its purpose.

Formal Diplomacy (Track 1) Official/Formal communication between state actors with the authority and mandate to speak and make decisions on behalf of their governments or institutions.

Informal Diplomacy (Track 2 and 1.5) Dialogue between non-officials to build relations, resolve conflict, manage a crisis or build trust, based on agreed mandate, roles and responsibilities. It can include officials in informal roles (Track 1.5), academics, NGOs, faith-based organizations, business partners, media, retired civil servants and other “insiders” (Track 2).

*Text box reproduced from Klimes, M., Yaari (Koch), E., 2019. [‘Water diplomacy: Facilitating dialogues.’](#) *S/WI**

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network is a Track 1.5 informal Network linking Track 1 mandated, decision makers and Track 2 influential intermediaries, such as leading academics and women-led civil society leaders, to foster inclusive, sustainable, and cooperative water decision making and governance.

Through the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, the Network members, and implementing partners, including key sector leaders, have co-created engagements that foster continuous learning, knowledge and experience sharing while fostering a community of practice. Each initiative is designed on requests from the Network members acquired through processes of monitoring and evaluation, aligned with basin-level processes and trends, and integrating lessons learned from other basin contexts, including the adaptation of gender transformative approaches as part of process design.

‘To get ahead and to innovate in our work, professionals and experts need to be surrounded by a network of supporters for inspiration and sharing.’

Dr. Muna Musnad, Member of the Nile Network Leadership Council

Between 2016-2021, the Network recurrently engaged an estimated 50 senior, mid-career, and young professional women predominately representing Ministries of Water and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as other relevant line ministries from across the Nile Basin in regular Network activities. Network activities have, to date, ranged from in-person and week-long water diplomacy training workshops, to

online experience exchanges with senior mediators, development of joint statements and knowledge products, capacity development in key sector trends, themes, and skills, and public events as part of key international events. At the 2020 Network Forum in Kenya, [Network Members released their first Network Joint Statement](#) calling for increased focus on women’s inclusion in transboundary decision making in the Nile at a critical juncture in the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) negotiation processes. The 2022 report, ‘[Laying the Bedrock of Transformation: Women in Water Diplomacy Inception and Development](#)’, provides an overview of the inception, development and engagements of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network from its inception through 2021 (Annex 2). Additional Network resources and tools are collected in Annex 3.

Through recurrent process monitoring, Network participants have voiced their interest in further engaging through the Network, linking the Network to other related initiatives in Africa and globally, continuing network capacity development opportunities, and enhancing inter-basin learning, national coordination, and inter-generational knowledge exchange. Participants have demonstrated that their ongoing engagement in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network is relevant and applicable to their professional work; nearly all indicated that they use knowledge gained from their participation in Network activities, with more than half indicating that they use the information ‘*regularly*.’ Moreover, a near complete plurality of respondents have indicated that the Women in Water Diplomacy Network contributes to improved transboundary water cooperation at the country, sub-basin, and basin levels.



Network Members from the Nile and Central Asia meet socially at the World Water Forum, 2022.

In parallel to this period of development, representatives of other basin communities have turned to SIWI and the Network for advice and experience exchange as well as inspiration for their own processes focused on the intersections of gender equality, women’s leadership, and transboundary water resource management. [The Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan](#) was launched in 2020 by SIWI in partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) with direct inspiration from the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.^x Additional requests and experience exchange opportunities have likewise sparked dialogues with other basin and country representatives interested in exploring opportunities to develop similar communities of practice for women water diplomats in their respective regions and/or basins.

In 2021, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Leadership Council was formed, attracting some of the world’s most experienced water diplomats from across Africa to co-create and drive the Network’s objectives and build a new five-year strategy. The initiative received strong support from the members and details regarding the size and composition of the Council were developed^{xi}. The first Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council welcomed **Yodit Balcha**, Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water and Energy (Ethiopia); **Jacqueline Nyirakamana**, former Chair of the Nile - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Member, Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist, Ministry of Environment (Rwanda); **Theresa Khakasa Wasike**, Director of Administration, Ministry of Water (Kenya); **Dr Tahani Sileet**, Head of the Central Department for External Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (Egypt); **Tumaini Mwamyalla**, National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative, Ministry of Water (Tanzania); **Dr Muna Musnad**, UNESCO Chair in Water Resources-Omdurman Islamic University, International Center for Water Cooperation (ICWC) Board Member (Sudan); **Dr Zodwa Dlamini**, Independent Consultant and Former Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (South Africa); and **Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa**, WASH

Specialist and former Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Regional Coordinator for Africa, in addition to members of the SIWI process support team (see Annex 1 for details).

The 2022 Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council



With the aim of both providing deeper levels of support to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile and developing new communities of practice in basins beyond the Nile, the new Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Global Strategy development and consultation process was launched. Over a six-month period, the Leadership Council and the SIWI Process Support Team convened a **series of strategy consultation events** to gain insights in and inputs from Network members and processes in the Nile Basin and beyond. In December 2021, SIWI, in partnership with the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, convened **the first Women in Water Diplomacy Development and Implementation Partners Round Table Discussion.** The consultation meeting was attended by over sixty Network Members, development, and implementation partners including representatives from a variety of key partners from across Africa including the World Bank's Cooperation International Waters Africa (CIWA) partnership, the United States Agency for international Development (USAID), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the Government of the Netherlands, Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM), and the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), among others.

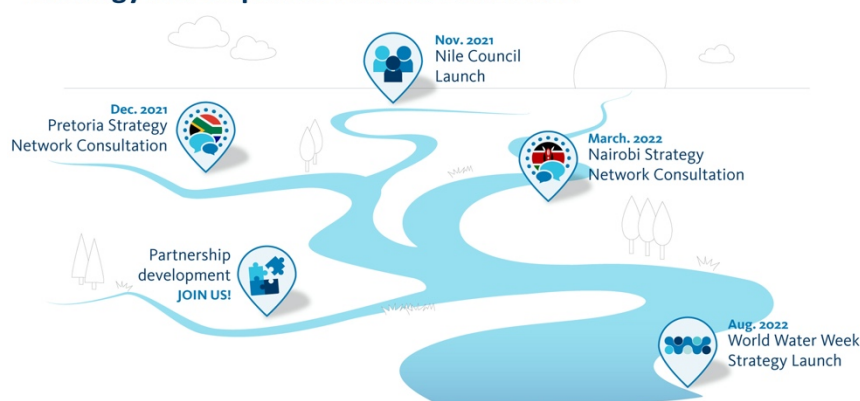
'Women are often in the frontline of water crisis, and we can see that daily. However, they are underrepresented in political decision making at different levels. This is a fact that undermines progress towards cooperative and sustainable management of shared waters....Sweden whole-heartedly pursues a Feminist Foreign Policy to contribute to gender equality and full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls all over the world... Women and girls' rights, representation and resources are still systematically subordinated. Women's roles in decision making is of key importance to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. More and more research makes it evident that gender inclusive peace processes are likely to last longer. I spent 23 years in Swedish Parliament and 23 years in the Defense Committee, and all the male strategies of state building and conflict resolution have caused so much suffering... I am totally committed to the Feminist Foreign Policy. By improving water governance countries can together reduce poverty and strengthen resilience.'

H.E. Ambassador Mr Håkan Juholt, Swedish Ambassador to South Africa, Nile and Beyond Strategy Launch December 2021

In January 2022, SIWI **convened a Nile Network wide consultation** workshop to provide further input into the strategy structure and priorities. On March 8, 2022, International Women's Day, SIWI convened the **second Women in Water Diplomacy Development and Implementation Partners Round Table Discussion**, hosted by the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Ambassador

Caroline Vicini. The online consultation meeting received great interest and was widely attended by Network Members, supporters, and development and implementation partners including representatives of a variety of key partners and high-level representatives from across Africa including, for example, from the South African Ministry of Water and Sanitation. In May 2022, the Leadership Council convened a **final consultation meeting with the Central Asia and Afghanistan Network** to gain further insights on the strategy’s adaptation, application and priorities *beyond* the Nile Basin.^{xii}

Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategy Development Process 2021-2022



Throughout the process Network members and supporters provided input into the reshaping and validation of the Network’s Mission (see below) and Strategic Objectives (see below). While all prioritized activities identified by the Network in the strategy aim to directly advance women’s leadership in transboundary water decision making, the strategy aims likewise to engage male champions of gender equality. Throughout the strategy’s consultation process, leading male water diplomats provided input and peer review, voicing leadership for gender equality as male champions and inspiring the inclusion of the Male Champions dialogue initiative among other prioritized initiatives specified in Pillar 1. Pillar 2 continues to innovate around key approaches of the Shared Waters Partnership programme and its partners with focus on peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange. Pillar

3 elevates the importance of local and national knowledge and aims to foster and advance women-led transboundary research collaborations. Pillar 4 draws critical linkage to basin, regional, and international policy processes, and Pillar 5 makes visible key process support functions necessary to maintain the strategy’s core principles and values (see below).

‘Ensuring equality for women on decisions about water is critical for their social and economic empowerment, and plays a vital role in strengthening community resilience.’

Professor Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla, Former Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative

The Leadership Council and Process support team then finalized the strategy document for presentation and validation at the **first-ever Global Network Forum held back-to-back with the 2022 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden**. The assembled participants of the 2022 Global Network Forum engaged in several days of dialogue, peer to peer learning, networking and exchange, while preparing for collective engagement in the critical policy dialogues taking place at World Water Week. **The Network's 2022 Global Joint Statement and Strategy were formally released** during an August 30, 2022 World Water Week event in which session participants were invited to support the Network's new strategy, endorse the Network's '*A Rising Tide*' global call to action, and **take shared action to urgently improve gender equality in decision making in transboundary water governance**.

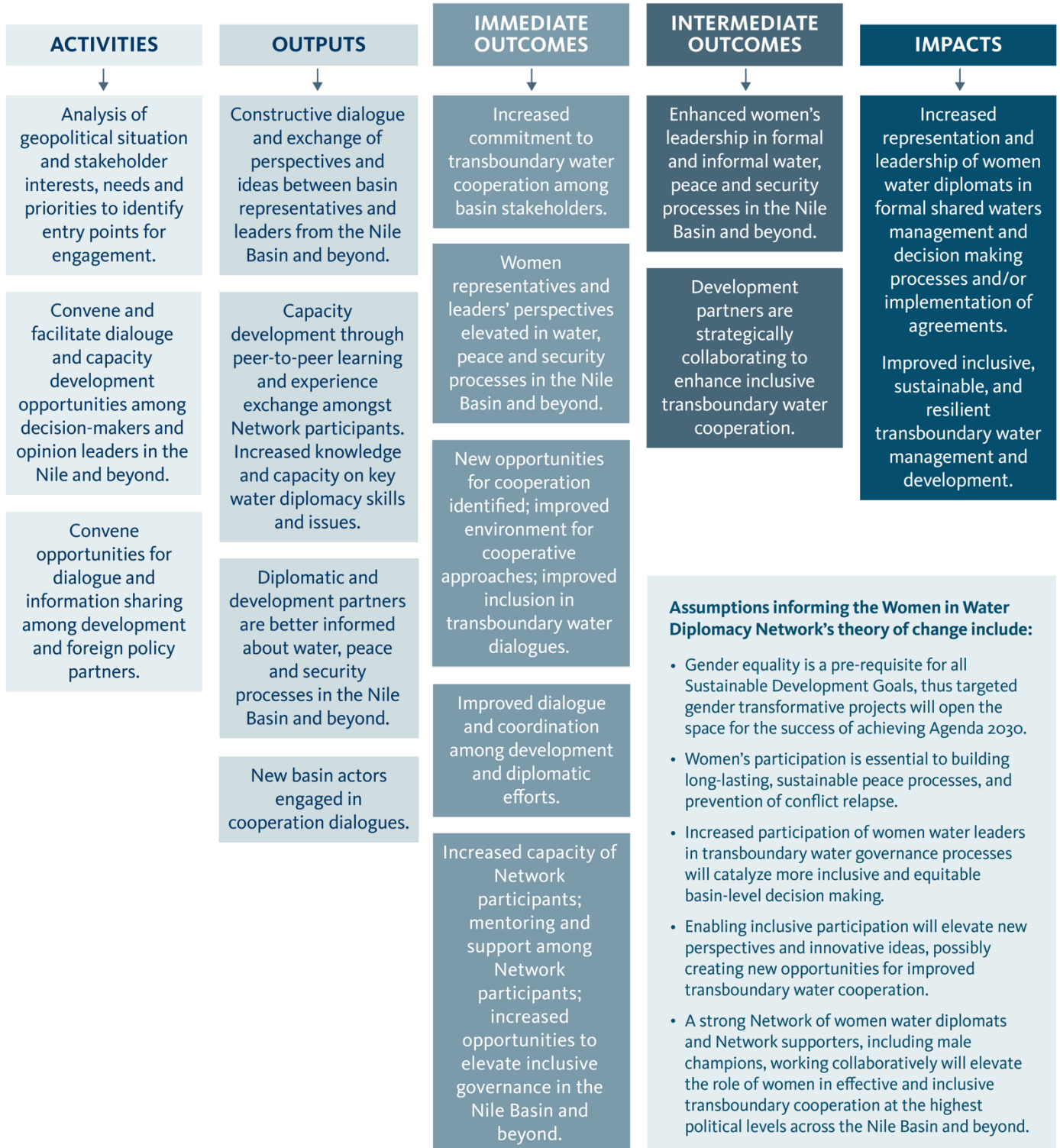
Women in Water Diplomacy Network Mission

To improve gender equality in high-level decision making in transboundary basins with focus on women's leadership in regional dialogues around the shared waters in the Nile and beyond – with resultant positive implications for regional peace and human security.

Women in Water Diplomacy Network Objectives

- **To improve gender equality in high level decision making in transboundary basins** with focus on enhanced women's leadership in decision making on the shared waters in the Nile Basin and other transboundary basins in Africa and globally - with resultant positive implications for regional peace, human security and water governance.
- **To support technical and research cooperation, knowledge exchange, peer to peer experience exchange, and capacity building** opportunities to enhance coordination, shared understanding, and trust building among Network members.
- **To elevate dialogue, knowledge, and experience** around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (gender equality, women's leadership, male championship, water cooperation, water security, climate security, human security, etc.) as part of the basins processes, Pan African processes and globally.
- **To contribute to empowering young water diplomats** by fostering experience exchange and empowering early career water diplomats.
- **To engage new sustainable core and thematic partners** to continue to support the Network in the Nile and develop adapted and contextualized Women in Water Diplomacy Networks in other strategic basins in Africa and 'beyond'.

Women in Water Diplomacy Network: Nile and Beyond Theory of Change



Core Values and Guiding Principles



DO NO HARM



SHARE SCARCE
RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY,
EFFECTIVELY & EQUITABLY



CO-CREATION



SYSTEMS THINKING



URGENCY OF
ACTION

Expected Results

For women water diplomats, and - other groups facing barriers to influence decision making fora, boundary crossing networks like the Women in Water Diplomacy Network can strengthen shared conviction, elevate positive visibility of shared objectives, enable cross border learning and mentorship, and create a safe space to discuss sensitive issues and gain exposure to the diverse roles and functions needed in transboundary water negotiations and management.

‘This platform provides women with a space where we can learn and share experience about water governance and transboundary cooperation issues. It is very empowering to be of this Network.’

Yodit Balcha, Senior Climate Adaptation Advisor, Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia

The 2021 Conciliation Resources report ‘*Beyond the vertical: What enables women mediators to mediate*,’ draws on the rich experience of the Women Mediators Network and ‘demonstrates how a complex mix of factors such as regional and local networks, positive visibility, intergenerational collaboration, effective peer-to-peer learning, flexible funding, responsive donors, and supportive and inclusive institutional cultures can contribute to constructing enabling environments for women mediators.’^{xiii}

Implementation of the Women in Water Diplomacy’s strategy is expected to contribute to impacts at national, regional and global levels in the Nile Basin and transboundary basins globally. Fostering and sustaining boundary crossing relationships between decision makers and experts from across a basin context can serve to erode closely held in-group and out-group associations, enabling conflict/competition ‘unfreezing’, and make space for new thinking, new perspectives, and new knowledge intersections that can challenge prevailing, status quo concepts and broaden the diplomatic space to inform official processes. Further, particularly in times of heightened political tensions, as is recurrently the

case in many political and water insecure basin contexts, boundary crossing communities can provide alternative channels of communications between neighbouring countries' decision makers to inform assessments in real time. As described by a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in during the 2022 IHE Water and Peace Seminar, the Track 1.5 Women in Water Diplomacy Network offers the basin '*early warning among friends.*'

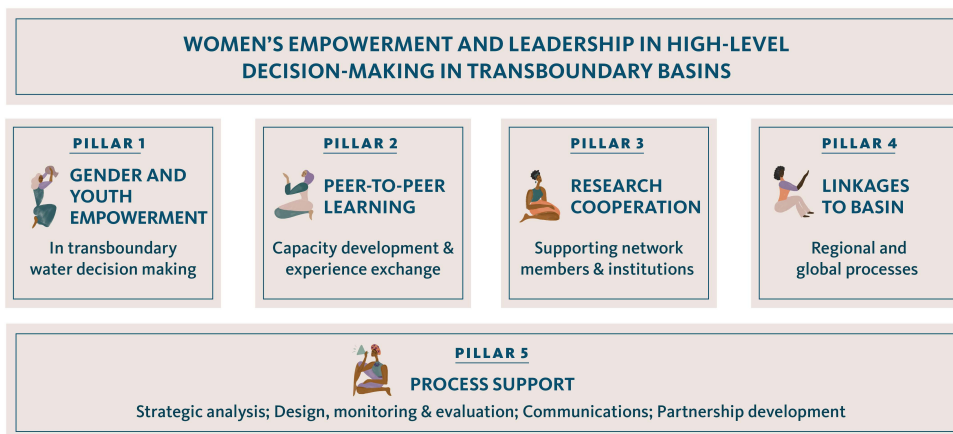
Immediate results of the strategy's implementation include the opportunity for dialogue and peer-to-peer mentoring and capacity development among participating women water diplomats through engaging in Network activities. Enabling Network members to join in collective learning and action is likewise expected to increase commitment to advance inclusive, cooperative solutions to transboundary water challenges among Nile Basin stakeholders and decision makers, improving the enabling environment for cooperative approaches. Through collective, visible, joint participation at a critical policy dialogue events the Network will elevate the recognition of the importance of gender equality, and women's leadership specifically, at all levels transboundary water negotiations and policy processes, strengthening shared convictions and providing positive inspiration to women and men across the water, climate, and development sectors.

Further, the strategy is expected to catalyze several key intermediate outcomes including improved coordination and information exchange between basin decision-makers through recurrent Network engagements and through joint engagement in international policy discussions. Likewise, improved coordination among development partners engaged in supporting both women, peace and security and water, peace and security is expected as a result of the Network's ongoing partnerships dialogues. Through the prioritized actions identified by the Network members in the Nile and Beyond strategy, the Network will deliberately catalyze women's leadership in water, climate, peace, and security processes in the Nile Basin and beyond at a moment in our political and environmental history demanding urgent change to the status quo.

Finally, as is already apparent in the Network's engagements since 2017, this action is expected to contribute to increasing the number of women directly engaged in high level basin negotiation and management.

Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategic Pillars

The 2022-2025 Strategic Pillars aim to reenforce the Strategic Objectives within each area of activity advanced by the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Each pillar is led by expert Leadership Council Members and supported by SIWI Process Support Team members operating to advance a shared objective with focus on prioritized engagements identified by Network members and supporters.



Pillar 1: Gender and Youth Empowerment in transboundary - water decision making

Objective: Spearhead initiatives within the Network that elevate women's roles in decision making and address underlying drivers of gender inequities in water governance from local to transboundary levels. Contribute to empowering young water professionals in support of the next generation of water diplomats.

Background and Opportunity^{xiv}

Much more action must be taken by a range of stakeholders to foster a true commitment to gender equality and social inclusion across the water sector – and specifically in transboundary water cooperation processes in fragile contexts. Although women have been repeatedly identified as users, custodians and managers of water, women continue to be excluded from key decision-making processes or from participating in initiatives connected to water whether at the local, institutional or political level. When women's participation is accommodated, they often confront major obstacles including male resistance and stereotypical perceptions that women lack the ability to engage in technical discussions. Women engineers, hydrogeologists and female representatives and decision makers working

on water at the political and institutional level face similar obstacles including a feeling of being voiceless as well as facing a lack of respect for their technical expertise. In 2018, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched a report arguing that women are often excluded from water governance at the transboundary and national levels.^{xv} Research and analysis including recurrent surveys and in-depth interviews amongst members and participants of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network reinforce these findings identifying persistent and ongoing exclusion of women in decision making processes at the transboundary level.^{xvi} This exclusion undermines progress towards cooperative and sustainable management of internationally shared river basins and aquifers.

Building upon commitments to gender equality at the local and national level in Africa and around the world, more can be done to address barriers women face to participating in transboundary water management for and foster transformative approaches to gender equality. There is a need for change in political decision making and discourse such that space is opened to enable alternative approaches to the management of international waters that integrates the voices of women and other marginalized populations.^{xvii} To do so requires identifying concrete ways to shift cultural norms that reinforce the perception that water resource management is solely a male domain. While engagements to strengthen women's ability to engage in the water governance sphere are a key piece of the puzzle, it is also important to engage directly with men to identify ways to overcome male resistance to women playing an equal role. During the strategy implementation period, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners including the World Bank's Cooperation International Waters in Africa partnership (CIWA) among others will undertake recurrent engagement activities to make visible and address underlying drivers of gender inequities in water governance.

Key Gender and Youth Empowerment Activities - Nile and Beyond 2022-2027:

- **Activity 1: Develop national Women in Water Diplomacy and Male Champions expert pool** with focus on young women professionals and engage experts across Network activities. Special emphasis and outreach to women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as other related environmental fields.
- **Activity 2: Convene national trainings** leveraging newly developed training materials to broaden awareness of drivers of gender inequities in water governance while engaging a broad sector of line ministries related to transboundary water governance.
- **Activity 3: Facilitate a Male Champions initiative** for decision makers in transboundary waters working to improve gender equality in their decision-making teams and processes.

Pillar 2: Peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and experience exchange

Objective: Support peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and experience exchange across the Network; enhancing knowledge, coordination, and trust-building among Network members.

Background and Opportunity:

Increasing water stress from climate change impacts, population growth, and a lack of good water governance has put focus on the urgency to address regional water security challenges, particularly in conflict sensitive transboundary basins and spurred efforts to support national decision makers to address and improve the management of shared waters. Water diplomacy ‘capacity building’ workshops designed to support riparian decision makers are often challenged to support participants to move from ridged national positions to a shared exploration of joint opportunities. Moreover, the dynamic and complex contexts of conflict sensitive regions often lend themselves to a securitization of water dialogues with resultant impacts on transparency and willingness to share information.

Building on regular consultations and needs assessments, the Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team has years of experience designing innovative water diplomacy experience exchange-based methodology workshops which radically depart from traditional one-directional capacity building. Shared Waters Partnership’s experience exchange methodology works to bring riparian decision makers and negotiators from a shared basin together in a sustained exchange with inputs and guidance from senior decision makers and/or negotiators with direct experience from relevant real-world basin processes. The methodology seeks to foster an informal atmosphere to build trust and peer-to-peer experience exchange focused around regional water cooperation opportunities and challenges and recognizing the expertise and experience of the diverse Network participants. Maintained connectivity between participant-decision makers beyond the workshop environment provides an additional channel of communications and knowledge exchange nurtured by the Process Support Team.

In addition to supporting engagements in the Nile Basin, SIWI has utilized its experience exchange methodology in several conflict sensitive regions including other African Basins, Central Asia and Afghanistan, and transboundary basins in the Middle East with strong results. While there is no ‘silver bullet,’ SIWI’s water diplomacy experience exchange methodology has proved adept in enabling participating country representatives to informally explore areas of shared understanding, identify areas of diverging perspectives, and improve understanding of their neighbor’s water reality and related decision making processes. Moreover,

the method provides space to participants to listen, share their visions on different regional water diplomacy processes, move towards a shared understanding of challenges, clarify mandates, and identify priorities and confidence building measures. Experience exchange also cultivates opportunities for learning for a range of officials at various levels, providing more inclusive learning and intergenerational dialogue opportunities than traditional capacity building workshops.

In Network post engagement evaluations participants regularly identify the opportunity to learn from their neighbours and the engaged experienced negotiators from other basins as the most valuable part of their experience, i.e. *'I liked the experience sharing part where you could hear other participants perspectives on water diplomacy.'* The most appreciated part of many workshops is often gaining from *'experience from other regions and countries on cooperation on transboundary rivers.'* Given the success of the experience exchange approach the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners plan to continue to develop and leverage the methodology as a core feature of engagements implemented under Pillar 2.

Key peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and experience exchange activities - Nile and Beyond 2022-2027:

- **Activity 4: Conduct annual Network member needs assessments** to inform capacity development priorities
- **Activity 5: Undertake recurrent basin and inter-basin experience exchange and capacity development trainings** for Network members including inter-basin dialogues and learning opportunities, including Network Forums.
- **Activity 6: Develop a specialized accredited water diplomacy training course** for Network members offered recurrently to all members.
- **Activity 7: Host a knowledge resource library** for Network members.



Women in Water Diplomacy workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Image by SIWI.

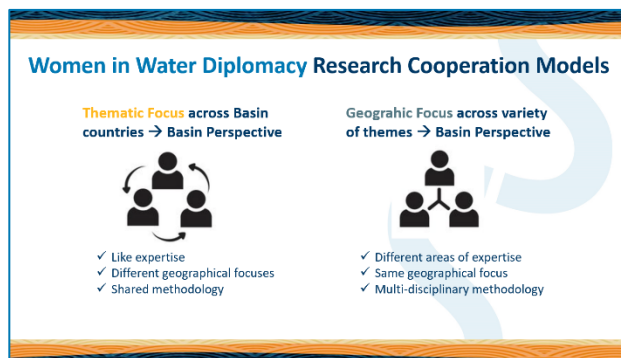
Pillar 3: Research Cooperation

Objective: Support multi-disciplinary research cooperation among Network members and other institutions and partners in cooperation with the SIWI hosted UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) and other partners.

Background and Opportunity:

Broadly held beliefs and understandings can at times act as barriers to new information and reinforce resistance to change. Elevating new information and understandings around shared water resources often requires long-

term, sustained engagement from independent social sectors including for example civil society organizations and academics. Significantly eroding functional and broadly held beliefs, such as, ‘*the river belongs to us*’, often requires an instigating belief to initiate unfreezing and increase nuanced understanding, catalyzing change.^{xviii} Boundary crossing research cooperation efforts can support basin decision makers and stakeholders by fostering a shared vision and understanding of border crossing concerns and contribute to eroding gaps in information or and knowledge barriers to cooperation around shared waters. Linking formal basin stakeholders with informal expert sources of research and knowledge supports both technical and political actors to make informed decisions and increases the willingness and abilities of a range of actors to take informed cooperative decisions on shared waters. Boundary crossing research cooperation efforts can take many forms. Successful models are often designed to bring similar expertise from around a shared resource together to explore a particular dimension or theme of water cooperation (example: cost of non-cooperation basin assessment conducted by experts in each basin country utilizing the same methodology, bringing their shared results together to provide a basin perspective) or alternatively a range of different experts exploring multiple dimensions of water cooperation around a shared basin (example: environmental flow assessment in which expert hydrologists, botanists, biologists etc from each basin country undertake specific assessments in each basin country in their complementary area of expertise, bringing their shared results together to provide a basin perspective).



The Women in Water Diplomacy Network will nurture joint research amongst its members and supporters contributing both to the growing literature in the field of water cooperation and likewise to elevate women-led research excellence including marginalized perspectives and local knowledge holders such as indigenous women riparians. The Network will, together with its partners such as the SIWI hosted UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC)^{xix}, the UNESCO IHP, and the Environmental Law Institute, generate new knowledge through undertaking empirical research. The results of joint research will be disseminated by Network members, supporters and Process Support Team and communicated in open access reports, peer-reviewed articles, and policy briefs, designed for a variety of specific target audiences as well as for the general public. New knowledge and tools developed will likewise inform other aspects of the Nile and Beyond strategy including peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and communication engagements.

Key Research Cooperation Activities - Nile and Beyond 2022-2027:

- **Activity 8: Identify and nurture areas of joint research cooperation.**
- **Activity 9: Undertake baseline assessment of gender equality in transboundary water decision making for each country** engaged in Network; identifying barriers, opportunities, and examining drivers of gender inequities related to water cooperation.
- **Activity 10: Develop monitoring framework for gender equality in transboundary water governance decision making fora.**
- **Activity 11: Foster collaboration opportunities with members of the UN Water family organizations** (example UNESCO ICWC, UNESCO IHP) and research institutions.



Women in Water Diplomacy Network Forum. Image by SIWI.

Pillar 4: Linkages to basin, regional and global processes

Objective: Contribute to elevating dialogue, knowledge, and experience around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (i.e., women, water, peace and security) as part of basin wide, regional, and global dialogue processes.

Background and Opportunity:

Despite long efforts to foster inclusive policy dialogue spaces, many critical global water and climate dialogues retain rigid gender and economic barriers negatively impacting women's equal participation and influence. It is precisely now, when the urgency of the global water and climate crisis is upon us that a diversity of women's voices must be elevated in all water and climate decision making for a *without fail*. Guided by the Network's Nile and Beyond strategy and led by the Network's Leadership Council, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network will identify strategic milestones events at national, basin, regional and global levels for collective engagement to impact on the Network's policy objectives and priorities and tangibly impact the trajectory of water and peace related discourse in the Nile and beyond. During the strategy implementation period, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners will undertake collective engagement activities as part of key basin, regional and global policy events with initial focus on impact priorities and decisions taken at the 2023 UN Water Conference and midterm review of the International Decade of Water.

Key Basin, regional and global processes activities - Nile and Beyond 2022-2027:

- **Activity 12: Conduct knowledge exchange and visibility engagements at key global events such as:**
 - UN Water Conference Dushanbe preparatory meetings June 2022
 - World Water Week Aug 2022 – Global Network Forum and strategy launch event
 - COP27 – Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt; November 2022; Cairo Water Week
 - UN Water Conference March 2023, 'the most important water conference in a generation,' marking the midterm review of the International Decade of Action for Water
 - Africa Water Week (Q3) 2023
- **Activity 13: Contribute to relevant strategy and policy processes** such as gender and social inclusion strategies of key institutions such as AMCOW, AU – ANWIN, Regional Economic Communities, Sanitation and Water for All, ANBO, AfDB (Africa Water Facility), the AU Africa Investment Programme (AIP) and other regional and global initiatives. Work directly with river basin organizations responsible for guiding the governance of African shared watercourses to develop and implement strategies to advance women's leadership.

Cross-cutting Pillar 5: Process Support: Analysis; Design, Monitoring and Evaluation; Communications; Strategy and Partnership Development

Objectives: Provide professional process support to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network to effectively implement the Nile and Beyond strategy. Support the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, and financial resources to enable the achievement of the Network's global mission and strategy.

Background and Opportunity:

SIWI as an independent, not-for-profit foundation has directly supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's inception and development through its flagship Shared Waters Partnership programme since 2017. The Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team work actively throughout the design, implementation and monitoring of Network engagements to ensure adherence to its core values and guiding principles. SIWI and the Network partners engaged in process support recognize the responsibility to uphold the highest standards in its support, making efficient use of public resources, listening and co-designing engagements with local actors and decision makers to reduce externalities and challenges of instrumentalization in complex and diverse basin contexts. Moreover, through a 'stronger together' approach the Process Support Team will lead partnership development and resource mobilization efforts to support the implementation of the Nile and Beyond strategy in close collaboration with the Network members and partners.

Design, monitoring and evaluation are critical tools in the process architecture of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. The Network has specifically been recognized for its innovative approaches and integration of monitoring and evaluation as part of process design. Network needs assessments and engagement evaluations are undertaken recurrently alongside activities, and in-depth on biannual basis. Monitoring and evaluation processes are designed to capture participant feedback on the approaches used to facilitate exchanges and events, as well as to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement in the strategy from Network members. Monitoring and evaluation processes in the Women in Water Diplomacy are anonymous with aggregate data shared with all participants as part of After-Action Reports to encourage co-creation in the Network's engagements. As an integral aspect of the Network strategy and prioritized engagements, the process support team will continue to design and implement monitoring and evaluation processes to capture inputs from Network members into the engagement's design and objectives in advance of actions, provide opportunities for input through the

implemented activity, as well as collect post engagement feedbacks, lessons learned and assessments from Members as part of After-Action reporting.

All SIWI program staff receive training in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse through UNICEF. In addition, Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team members have specific expertise and training in youth empowerment, human rights-based approaches, mainstreaming and targeted approaches to advancing gender equality, design, monitoring and evaluation in fragile contexts, and gender and peacebuilding among other areas of content expertise. With some specific exceptions, all engagements of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network are undertaken utilizing the Chatham House Rule to foster a safe space for sharing and protect Members against backlash from process spoilers at various scales with special considerations and protections embedded with regards to women peacebuilders and human rights defenders. While members are encouraged to make their engagements in the Network visible to share experience and inspire others, they are by no means required to do so, particularly in country contexts, where doing so could put participants in harm's way. The experience of navigating together through regional and national conflicts and crises is, unfortunately, not unfamiliar to the Members of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. In recent years this has been brought to the fore with violent conflict affecting Members in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Kazakhstan and elsewhere.

The immediate outcomes and broader impacts of the implementation of the Nile and Beyond strategy will be further summarized and disseminated through SIWI and ICWC online communication platforms and social media channels, and those of its partners, as well as in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network Newsletter. In addition to the development and continuation of the Women in Water Diplomacy Newsletter and webpages, SIWI will continue to leverage its sector leading Communications Department to share information and results related to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network including through such outputs as: publications, policy briefs, videos, blogs, website content, illustrations, symbols and other means of collective communications and influence. Further, Network communications will aim to elevate alignment and synergies with the women, peace and security, the sustainable development, and the Youth, Peace and Security agendas. The Process Support team will engage collaboratively with Network participants and supporters to develop and nurture partnerships to enhance resources for the implementation of the Nile and Beyond strategy.

Women in Water Diplomacy Network Governance Snapshot

- 1.** The SIWI Shared Waters Partnership led Women in **Water Diplomacy Process Support Team** coordinates all key events, including the Network Forums, meetings of the Leadership Council, and workgroups as relevant. The Process Support Team liaises with Network members, partners and supporters on behalf of the Network and is responsible for administration, communication, quality assurance, public relations, outreach, partnership development, and resource mobilization in close collaboration with the Leadership Council and members. The Team supports the Network activities based on the decisions of SIWI, its implementation partners, the Network Council in accordance with available resources and relevant partner rules and guidelines.
- 2.** The **Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Leadership Council** currently consists of eight members from the Nile and Beyond. It comprises six representatives from the founding Nile Basin Network countries and two representatives from outside the Basin. Leadership Council representatives will be nominated every other year to serve two-year voluntary appointments. Basin/regional level Leadership Councils will be developed as decided by basin/regional networks. The number of Leadership Council seats may be expanded to include representatives of new basin communities by consensus decision.
- 3.** The Process Support Team will convene **Women in Water Diplomacy Network Forums** as a central event and exchange platform for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. During Network Forum events, members from participating Basin Networks will be invited to gather to foster collaboration and dialogue and advance on the Network Strategic Pillars and Strategic Objectives of the Nile and Beyond strategy. Forums will enable high-level conversations, networking, information sharing and the strengthening of cooperation within the Network and beyond. Network Forums will also enable participation of guests and new potential members and showcase the value of the Network for its Members. As part of the Forum, key governance decisions will be taken, activities validated, and priority areas identified to address the needs and interests of the members.
- 4.** The **Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Global Strategy** guides the sustainable development and evolution of the Network in the Nile Basin and beyond. New basin communities wishing to join the Network are welcomed and encouraged to leverage the lessons learned and adapt and align with the Nile and Beyond Strategy as relevant.
- 5.** The **Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Strategic Pillars** anchor the engagements of the Network to the Strategy. Strategic pillars are co-led by a Leadership Council member and SIWI process support team member(s) with the support of other Network members and partners.
- 6.** **Women in Water Diplomacy Activities** convened recurrently are open to all Network members to join throughout the year.

Strategic Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Risk Level (Very High, High, Medium, or Low)	Mitigation Strategy
Geo-political instability in basin countries	Medium	The Women in Water Diplomacy Network serves itself as a mitigation strategy to geo-political instability by fostering opportunities for cooperative relations between basin riparian representatives.
Covid-19 Pandemic Safety Restrictions impacting ability to travel and in-person meetings	Medium	SIWI and its implementation partners will ensure in-person events are coordinated in alignment with public health advisories regarding Covid-19. Further, the Process Support Team includes sector leaders adapt in the development of digital water diplomacy approaches.
Co-financing	Medium	SIWI and Network partners are actively undertaking partnership development dialogues to increase financial resources for the implementation of the Nile and Beyond strategy. Limited ongoing co-financing is expected or confirmed from SIWI's SWP and other development partners. However, geo-political developments can cause sudden changes to development financing priorities.
Human Resources	Low	The implementation of the Network strategy strongly benefits from expert process support. Financing to enable expert process support is contingent upon ongoing support from SWP and other development partners.



The pilot Women in Water Diplomacy Network Forum in Uganda, Oct 2017. Image by SIWI.

Nile and Beyond Strategic Partners

As a Track 1.5 Network made up of tens of women water diplomats, most of whom hold official mandated roles on behalf of their governments, collaboration and coordination takes place with a matrix of diverse actors and sectors at country and regional levels. In each riparian country engaged in the Network efforts are taken to engage representatives of both the Ministries of Water and Foreign Affairs, alongside other official representatives engaged in transboundary water decision making and key influential intermediaries. As such, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network SIWI led Process Support Team coordinates, through the Leadership Council and Network Members, with a broad sector of government bodies, national organizations, and institutes.

At the basin level in both the Nile Basin and in Central Asia and Afghanistan, the Network is closely coordinated with regional water cooperation focused organizations and civil society groups including for example, the the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC, which co-implements the Network's engagements in Central Asia and Afghanistan). The Network likewise partners with leading knowledge centers, such as IHE Delft, ELI, ICWC and OSCE among others, to drive innovative and inclusive water diplomacy approaches. Centers of mediation excellence like the Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden) and the Centre for Peace Mediation (Finland) have provided novel opportunities for Network members to engage in experience and knowledge exchange with women mediators involved in peace and security dialogues globally.

With this new global strategy in place and new 'sister' basin communities begin to take root in Asia, Africa, and elsewhere, new collaborations have been initiated and nurtured including with partners Cap-Net UNDP, the Community of Women in Water and others. Research collaboration with universities and centers such as the SIWI hosted UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation, as well as river basin organizations and national and regional civil society partners are likewise important partners in the Network's efforts to improve gender equality in high level decision making in transboundary basins.

In order to see the Women in Water Diplomacy: Nile and Beyond Strategy into fruition, SIWI and the process support team invite new partners to join us in the Nile and beyond!

During the Nile and Beyond Strategy Period ongoing and new partnerships are expected to include:

SIWI's Shared Water Partnership programme was founded in 2010 as a platform to improve cooperation over shared waters in regions where water is, or may

become, a source of conflict or where water can serve as a catalyst for peace. The overall objective of the Shared Waters Partnership is peaceful cooperation between basin states sharing transboundary water sources. The Shared Waters Partnership, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the United States Department of State, the Government of the Netherlands and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has supported the inception and development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2017 and will continue to do so during the coming strategy period.



The SIWI hosted International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) has been a core partner to the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since its inception. ICWC has supported focused research on gendered aspects of water cooperation processes as well hosting the 2016 *International Symposium on Water Diplomacy* bringing water diplomacy experts, academics, practitioners and other informal actors, including journalists and civil society groups, together to discuss key issues in the field. With a



focused session on the role of women in water diplomacy decision making processes and invited presentations from leading experts, the 2016 *International Symposium on Water Diplomacy* proved catalytic in the launch of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network the following year. ICWC resources have specifically been leveraged in the development and production of key research publications as detailed in the [2022 report 'Laying the Bedrock of Transformation.'](#) Support for the Women in Water Diplomacy's Nile and Beyond strategy is specifically indicated in the [2021-2026 strategy of the International Centre of Water Cooperation](#) and reflected in ongoing engagement with other UNESCO Water Family institutions such as UNESCO IHP.

The [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#) is strongly committed to



promoting and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security in the OSCE region. These commitments recognize the



importance of women's full and equal representation and participation in peace and security governance at all levels – including as part of transboundary water governance. OSCE has in recent years led focused capacity building and support to OSCE country partners around the intersecting themes of water diplomacy, regional water governance and gender equality. Since 2016, [SIWI and OSCE have partnered to support a focused 'water day' at the Central Asian Regional Environmental Center \(CAREC\)'s Central Asian Leadership Programme \(CALP\)](#). In 2020, SIWI and OSCE partnered to develop and deliver [online water diplomacy trainings for dozens of water professionals across the OSCE region](#). OSCE has in recent years released a number of key resources and toolkits for water practitioners of relevance to the themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Under Sweden's chairmanship in 2021, OSCE launched the online course '[Gender Mainstreaming in Water Governance](#)'. In June 2021, [OSCE together with SIWI and CAREC launched the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan](#) as part of the OSCE's Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase II. The [OSCE-CAREC-SIWI Women in Water Management Network](#) draws its inspiration from the Women in Water Diplomacy Network with tailored regional adaptations. The Central Asia-Afghanistan Network benefits from the regional leadership of [CAREC](#). CAREC has in recent years led the integration of gender equality into key regional water policy frameworks guided by its own regional Gender Strategy. The Central Asia and Afghanistan Network members are invited to participate in Forums and other engagements and had opportunity to input into the Nile and Beyond Global Strategy. In 2022, OSCE, SIWI and CAREC reconfirmed its ambition to continue to support the development of the Central Asia and Afghanistan Network and advance the objectives of the Nile and Beyond strategy collaboratively.

In 2021, SIWI partnered with Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' [Centre for Peace Mediation \(CPM\)](#), to co-convene an



Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

online experience exchange session for members of the CPM supported Finnish

Water Diplomacy Network and the Finnish members of the Nordic Women Mediator Network with strong focus on promoting women's ownership of and participation in peace processes in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. In June 2022, CPM provided catalytic support to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network with focused resource

allocation to the Nile and Beyond strategy launch and first ever Global Network Forum held back-to-back with the 2022 World Water Week. CPM, SIWI and Network partners will continue to explore opportunities for linkages and synergies in programming as part of the Nile and Beyond strategy in the years ahead.

Since 2010, the [World Bank's Cooperation International Waters in Africa \(CIWA\)](#) has



been supporting riparian governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to assist in the sustainable, inclusive, climate-resilient growth by addressing constraints to cooperative management and development in transboundary waters. CIWA has been a strong advocate for gender equality - through its support to advance gender equality in transboundary programs and institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. Its vision and approach to promoting gender equality and social inclusion seeks to facilitate a transformative approach as articulated in the CIWA Gender and Social Inclusion Framework.^{xx} In 2021, following the Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond Global Strategy launch event, CIWA provided expert advice and research inputs as part of the Nile and Beyond strategy development processes. The World Bank's Gender and Social Inclusion Expert Consultant, Ellen Hagerman, contributed specifically to the development of Pillar 1 with focus on the development of the **Male Champions initiative**. CIWA will pilot test the Male Champion Initiative jointly developed with SIWI and the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in current CIWA supported basins to adapt and adjust the initiative based on the lessons learned from the pilot.

Since 2017, the [Environmental Law Institute](#) has provided collaborative support towards the development and implementation of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network with focus on capacity development and research cooperation. As a core member of the Process Support Team, Jessica Troell, Director of ELI's International Waters Program has



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supported the design and implementation of Network Forum events in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2022 and contributed to further research around key themes of relevance to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Jessica Troell co-authored the 2019 SIWI policy brief [Tapping our Potential – Women's Water Leadership in the Nile Basin](#). ELI reconfirmed its commitment to supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the new strategy period, with focus on process support, partnership development, capacity development and research cooperation.

[IHE Delft](#) has a long history of exploring and elevating the gendered dynamics of water governance with core coursework offered to its students across a range of water-related disciplines including transboundary water governance. IHE and SIWI have maintained an MOU to guide its joint engagements for many years with joint governance agreements highlighting focus on gender equality in transboundary waters since at least 2015. IHE Delft representatives participated in early inception dialogues around the themes of women in water diplomacy at the SIWI International Centre for Water Cooperation 2016 Water Diplomacy Symposium and convened recurrent high-level discussions elevating these theme including the [\(En\)Gendering Transboundary Water Governance: Feminist Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation online conference](#) in September 2020 which included the session ‘[Experiences of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile.](#)’ In 2019, IHE Delft provided resource support towards the design and implementation of the 2019 Women in Water Diplomacy Forum in Ethiopia with Dr Jenniver Sehring, Senior Lecture in Water Governance and Diplomacy providing key trainings on leadership and leadership roles. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network was also featured in the 2022 IHE Delft Water and Peace Seminar, in which members of the Network had the opportunity to share experience on the value of informal water diplomacy communities of practice. Network members and supporters contributed to research published jointly by IHE and SIWI process support team members including insights from a series of in-depth interviews with Nile Basin stakeholders focused on barriers to women’s participation around the decisionmaking table in Nile Basin negotiations. These and other innovative intersectional findings supporting decision makers and practitioners to address and erode implicit and explicit bias at various scales will be published in the book *Gender dynamics in transboundary water governance: Feminist Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation*, edited by IHE Delft’s Dr Jenniver Sehring, Rozemarijn ter Horst and Dr Margreet Zwarteveen. IHE Delft reconfirmed its commitment to supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the new strategy period, with continued focus on capacity development and research cooperation engagements.



During the strategy period, [Cap-Net UNDP](#) will provide in kind support towards the development and hosting a closed online learning space – a Cap-Net UNDP ‘Virtual Campus’ for the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Collaboration between SIWI and Cap-Net UNDP Secretariate will aim to see the development of the online community space for the Women in Water Diplomacy to foster peer-to-peer learning, capacity development, experience exchange, and research cooperation across the increasingly global network, as well as



hosting the Network resource library with curated knowledge products. It is envisioned that this partnership will add value across all strategic pillars of the Nile and Beyond Strategy. For example, the Virtual Campus will enable thematic discussions to identify areas of joint research interest and potential collaboration across the Network contributing to Pillar 3 on research collaboration. By leveraging the innovative monitoring, evaluation and learning tools embedded in the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus, Cap-Net will likewise provide important contributions to Pillar 5 on process support to evolve and improve member's experience and engagement across the Virtual Campus platform. Further, Cap-Net's open access curriculum will be made fully available to the Network Members, and the Network partners will consider developing joint activities to likewise leverage the expertise of the Network members in online learning opportunities offered by Cap-Net. The Cap-Net UNDP partnership is envisioned to align with the Nile and Beyond strategy period – although the platform would remain functional and accessible to the Network beyond the strategy period as requested by Members.

Läkarmissionen International (LM) is a Sweden-based international aid organization promoting sustainable poverty reduction from a rights perspective. LM is committed to a wide variety of projects that focus primarily on health, water, and sanitation as well as training, education, and skills enhancement. LM's partnership with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, initiated in 2022, aims to elevate and integrate important lessons learned and experiences from the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector and draws upon LM's extensive network of experienced national and local experts and practitioners. LM, SIWI, and the Network partners will continue to explore opportunities for linkages and synergies in programming as part of the Nile and Beyond strategy in the years ahead beginning with joint engagements planned around the 2022 Network Forum.



LM International

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network will continue to evolve its growing partnership including ongoing and planned engagements with many women-led networks and partner institutions including, for example the [Women in Water Partnership](#), the [Community of Women in Water](#) and [the Global Waters Partnership](#), [the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance \(SuSanA Network\)](#), and [the Nordic Africa Institute \(NAI\)](#) among others - with a '*stronger together*' motivated approach.

Join us!

Annexes:

Annex 1: Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council and Process Support Team

Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council Members:

1. **Yodit Balcha**, Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water and Energy (**Ethiopia**)
2. **Jacqueline Nyirakamana**, former Chair of the Nile -Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Member, Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist, Ministry of Environment (**Rwanda**)
3. **Theresa Khakasa Wasike**, Director of Administration, Ministry of Water (**Kenya**)
4. **Dr Tahani Sileet**, Head of the Central Department for External Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (**Egypt**)
5. **Tumaini Mwamyalla**, National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative, Ministry of Water (**Tanzania**)
6. **Dr Muna Musnad**, UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, Omdurman Islamic University, and International Center for Water Cooperation (ICWC) Board Member (**Sudan**)
7. **Dr Zodwa Dlamini**, Independent Consultant and Former Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (**South Africa**)
8. **Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa**, WASH Specialist and former Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Regional Coordinator for Africa (**ESwatini**)

In addition, the Council will continue to be supported by the Shared Waters Partnership programme team and partners, and benefit from the close collaboration with SIWI's Africa Regional Centre team and the Environmental Law Institute including:

1. **Elizabeth A. Koch**, Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute (former Senior Manager, Shared Waters Partnership/SIWI) (ELI, partner since 2017)
2. **Kerry Schneider**, Shared Waters Partnership Senior Manager, SIWI
3. **Julienne Ndjiki**, Programme Officer, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI
4. **Anton Earle**, Director, Africa Regional Centre, SIWI
5. **Xanani Baloyi**, Programme Officer, Africa Regional Centre, SIWI
6. **Katie Goldie-Ryder**, Programme Officer, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI
7. **Jessica Troell**, Director, Africa Water, Environmental Law Institute (ELI, partner since 2017)

Annex 2: Women in Water Diplomacy Inception and Development Report 2013-2021

[Laying the Bedrock of Transformation: The Women in Water Diplomacy Programme Report 2013-2021](#) was released in January 2022 in advance of the March 8, 2022 Women in Water Diplomacy Nile and Beyond strategy partners consultation meeting. The report details Women in Water Diplomacy engagements to date and provides critical background to the Nile and Beyond strategy.

Annex 3: Additional Resources of Relevance

Women in Water Diplomacy related resources, publications, video recordings, newsletter and more are collected and made available here: <https://siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network/network-resources>



Front cover of the Network's Inception and Development report, Feb 2022.

Annex 4: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs)

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile project contributes to:

- **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (in particular targets 5.5 and 5C)
- **SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (in particular targets 6.4, 6.5, and 6B)
- **SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (in particular target 16.7)

Target 6.5 specifically emphasizes the importance of transboundary cooperation, tracking the percentage of a transboundary basin area that has an operational arrangement for water cooperation. Further, water can drive progress across all 17 SDGs and is an essential element to fulfilling the aims of other urgent global development Agendas such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda among others.

UN Women has highlighted that SDG 5 - Gender Equality - is a pre-requisite for all other SDGs. Progress to achieving Goal 5 is already lagging, and new barriers, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrates that international and national crises often undermine and threaten gender equality processes. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network will specifically contribute to achieving Target 5.5 - promoting women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life, and Target 5C to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. Inclusive societies are also peaceful societies, the UN and World Bank's [Pathways for Peace](#) reports that since 2016, there has been a surge in violent conflicts, more than that which have occurred in the past 30 years, and according to the recent trends, more than half of the world's poor will be living in states with high-levels of conflict by year 2030. SDG target 16.7 seeks to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels as a key pre-requisite for preventative measures of conflict.

Meeting the goals of Agenda 2030 will increasingly demand that policy makers at all levels improve inclusive water governance strategies, develop benefit-sharing opportunities, and negotiate trade-offs among contending interests, risks and opportunities. Inclusively and effectively managing transboundary water resources will require strengthening collaboration across states, sectors, and stakeholders. Multiple direct and indirect factors such as political institutions, economic circumstances, and social perceptions shape the conditions influencing cooperative possibilities and water conflict risks.

Annex 5: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Principles of Feminist Foreign Policy

The critical role of women in water resources management and protection has been recognized and emphasized at the highest policy levels for over 25 years. The Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development (see box) was only the first of countless national, basin-level and international policy statements and guidance documents that stress the need for more gender-inclusive water governance processes at all levels.^{xxi} Yet, despite repeated high-level commitments to engaging women in water governance, evidence reveals a persistent gender gap in the water sector. This gap is particularly evident at the transboundary level, where water governance processes continue to be dominated by men (Bazilli and Earle, 2013; IUCN, 2017). Similarly, the transformative role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding has been repeatedly demonstrated, including research showing that gender inclusive peace processes are 35 per cent more likely to last at least 15 years, that peace agreements signed by women are positively associated with more durable peace, and that higher levels of gender equity are associated with a lower instance of conflict (Krause et. Al., 2018; UNSC, 2000).^{xxii}

Dublin Statement (1992) Principle 3:

Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

This pivotal role of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the living environment has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources. Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women's specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation, in ways defined by them.

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda was adopted in October 2000 by the United Nations Security Council through Resolution 1325^{xxiii} and although there has been progress, it has been slow. The Council on Foreign Relations' recent study reveals that women constituted a mere [8 per cent of negotiators, 3 percent of mediators and 5 per cent of signatories](#).

The field of transboundary water management is a particularly male dominated sub-field, globally, but also in the Nile Basin. Based on the key findings of a study conducted by SIWI on women's participation in high level processes in transboundary water management (2020), women are still far from participating on

equal terms. The uncertainties in water availability are exacerbated by climate change, thus it is imperative to have decision-makers who focus on win-win solutions for the security of the region and its inhabitants.

One key UN report on the WPS agenda from 2015 states '*One of the most repeated effects of women's involvement in peace processes was pushing for the commencement, resumption, or finalization of negotiations when the momentum had stalled or the talks had faltered.*' This is a particularly important issue in transboundary water dialogues where the negotiations often evolve for decades. Supporting women's leadership in dialog and peace mediation processes in the Nile Basin and beyond is foundational to successful sustainable development. Further, knowledge and experience generated in the Network is disseminated through SWP and SIWI's communication channels, as well as platforms and communications channels of the UNESCO Category II Centre International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) hosted at SIWI. All communication channels and platforms ensure that the Network and the WPS agenda is highlighted to various stakeholders in a national, regional, and international contexts.

Since its inception, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network has drawn inspiration from innovative feminist foreign policy rooted initiatives, like the Folke Bernadotte Academy supported networks of women peace mediators. Feminist Foreign Policy is a developing space. In a review of key strategy and action plans across a growing diversity feminist foreign policies of the world, several key principles stand out of particular importance to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Nile and Beyond strategy. These principles are sometimes referred to as the 4 'Rs' are likewise foundation to the Network's mission and include:

1. **Reality:** A commitment to systematically apply a gender lens across all engagements to inform context and power analysis – including through the systematic collection of gender disaggregated data.
2. **Rights:** A commitment to gender equality and human rights.
3. **Representation:** A commitment to promote the participation of women as actors and decision makers in peace processes – particularly in fragile country contexts, conflict and post conflict and humanitarian settings.
4. **Resources:** A commitment to distribute resources equitably to equalize women's participation.

Annex 6: Nile and Beyond Strategic Alignment to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in 2015. Similar in construct to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, Resolution 2250 recognizes that young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Resolution 2250 is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, as engaging youth and creating more inclusive decision making processes and structures are fundamental components of reaching the 2030 Agenda (United Nations Development Program, 2017). Linking the SDG and YPS Agendas, more than one third of the SDG targets mention young people, specifically highlighting terms such as participation and empowerment. There are 20 youth-specific targets spread over 6 key SDGs: Goal 13 (climate action) being one of them. SDG 6 on water and sanitation, however, lacks a youth-related target (General Assembly, 2015). Importantly, in many parts of the world, young people make up the majority of the population. With unique and varied vulnerabilities and needs as well as perspectives and opportunities, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network strategy will not succeed in achieving sustainable water for all without proactively engaging young people and young professionals at all levels.

Elevating perspectives, experience, expertise, and voices of youth in water diplomacy processes is a key aspect of fostering sustainable and long-lasting transboundary water cooperation. Barriers to youth participation and youth influence in water diplomacy remain firmly embedded. Yet today's youth have shown a strong desire and capacity to contribute to meeting the global challenges we are facing, not least climate change^{xxv} and water insecurity. Moreover, the growing acceptance of the importance of gender and social inclusion to sustainability and resilience gives strength to efforts to enhance inclusion across all ages, including young people.^{xxvi} Broadening the group of current decision-makers to include youth perspectives is important – not just for representation and the right to participation, but also to ensure continuity in policy and long-term success. Participation is a principle that needs continued encouragement and expansion if we are to achieve sustainable water for all. Youth participation can be strengthened by including young people in consultation, discussion, and co-design – leading to co-decision making and true empowerment. In alignment with the YPS Agenda, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network seeks to engage proactively in supporting young water diplomats, engaging with, investing in, and creating space for youth perspectives as a foundational aspect of the Nile and Beyond strategy.

Endnotes:

ⁱ For example, the [Water, Peace, Security partnership \(WPS\)](#), a collaboration between the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and a consortium of six partners including [Deltares](#), [The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies \(HCSS\)](#), [IHE Delft](#) (lead partner), [International Alert](#), [Werlands International](#) and [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#) who maintain the [WPS conflict forecast global tool](#) which highlights areas with both ‘a high risk of conflict’ and water insecurity indicators, such as below average precipitation, ‘to assist decision makers in prioritizing water-related early action.’

ⁱⁱ For example, the [Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security](#) maintain the WPS Index which draws on recognized data sources to measure women’s inclusion, justice, and security in 170 countries.

ⁱⁱⁱ Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Peace Research Institute Oslo. 2021. *Women, Peace, and Security Index 2021/22: Tracking sustainable peace through inclusion, justice, and security for women*. Washington, DC: GIWPS and PRIO.

^{iv} For details and further information see: World Resource Institute: <https://www.wri.org/data/aqueduct-projected-water-stress-country-rankings>

^v For details and further information see: European Commission’s Joint Research Centre at <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/innovative-approach-assessment-hydro-political-risk-spatially-explicit-data-driven-indicator-hydro>.

^{vi} For short bios of Nile Network Members and Central Asia and Afghanistan Members please see:

<https://siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network/>; <https://siwi.org/women-water-management-central-asia-afghanistan/>

^{vii} A recent survey of ongoing peace process/agreement/dialogue and negotiation processes in which Women in Water Diplomacy Network Members are/have been directly involved included dozens of bilateral and multilateral water and peace related policy dialogues.

^{viii} Many Network Members serve in various concurrent capacities in their roles as experts and/or representatives of the Ministries of Water, Foreign Affairs or other related line Ministries. As such they may be in the position of engaging in transboundary water negotiations and agreement development with neighboring states in a variety of overlapping or parallel configurations. For example, a Network Member may serve in an advisory role as part of the GERD negotiations in the Eastern Nile, a technical role in a bilateral basin discussion with one neighboring state, and advance a Nile Basin wide perspective in global climate policy dialogues.

^{ix} In addition to processes/agreements/ engagements related to the ongoing GERD negotiations, Nile Network Members currently or recently served in official roles related to Lake Victoria Basin Commission dialogues (inclusive of sub dialogues on Mara River and Lake Jipe/ Challa Basins), the Great Lakes Region of Africa dialogues, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin dialogues, the Technical Authority for Nile Water between Egypt and Sudan dialogues, Lake Kivu and Rusizi/Ruzizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR), Zambezi Watercourse dialogues (ZAMCOM), Lake Tanganyika dialogues, Ruvuma Basin dialogues, and Songwe River dialogues. Nile Network Members also represent their countries in official Track I policy dialogues such as the African Union, the African Ministers Council on Water, and in regional development bodies like the Southern Africa Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development among others.

^x Beyond the Nile, Network Members and supporters are represented and involved in transboundary water-related dialogues in Central Asia and Afghanistan including dialogues related to the Chu Talas Basin, the Aral Sea Basin, the Amu Darya, Syr Darya and Kabul Basin. In addition, since the launch of the Women in Water Diplomacy’s Nile and Beyond global strategy development process, new regional network initiatives have begun to take root in several additional basins in Africa and beyond.

^{xi} For details see: *Laying the Bedrock of Transformation: Women in Water Diplomacy Programme report 2013-2021* available at: <https://siwi.org/publications/laying-the-bedrock-of-transformation-women-in-water-diplomacy-network-2013-2021/>.

^{xii} For further details on the Nile and Beyond strategy consultations and events please visit: <https://siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network/>.

^{xiii} Conciliation Resources. 2021. *‘Beyond the vertical: What enables women mediators to mediate.’* Available at: <https://www.c-r.org/learning-hub/beyond-vertical-what-enables-women-mediators-mediate>.

^{xiv} SIWI is grateful to the World Bank’s Cooperation International Waters Africa (CIWA) programme for their support in developing the background and opportunity of Pillar 1 with specific thanks to Ellen Hagerman’s contributions including research and advice in development of the male champions engagement drawing upon best practices and lessons learned from male champion engagement efforts from around the world.

^{xv} Fauconnier, I. et al. *‘Women as Change-makers in the Governance of Shared Waters’*, IUCN, 2018.

^{xvi} Troell, Jessica; Koch (Yaari), Elizabeth. 2019. '[Tapping our potential: Women's Leadership in the Nile Basin](#)'. Stockholm International Water Institute.

^{xvii} Earle, Anton and Bazilli, Susan. "A gendered critique of transboundary water management." 2013, Feminist Critique.

^{xviii} Gayer, C., Landman, S., Halperin, E., and Bar-Tal, D. 2009. Overcoming psychological barriers to peaceful conflict resolution: The role of arguments about losses. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 53, 951-975; and Koch, Elizabeth and Aaron Wolf. Enabling Environments - Tools of Water Diplomacy in *Handbook on Water Diplomacy* (Routledge), *in progress, expected publication 2023*.

^{xix} The UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation's 2021-2026 Strategy includes reference to the close collaboration with the Women in Water Diplomacy's Nile and Beyond Strategy. For the full text of the strategy see: <https://siwi.org/publications/icwc-2021-2026-strategy-provides-basis-for-cooperation-on-shared-waters>.

^{xx} [World Bank CIWA, Gender and Social Inclusion Framework, 2021](#).

^{xxi} See for example: See, e.g., The Beijing Platform for Action (2005); Rio Principle 20 (1992); Africa Water Vision 2025; The AMCOW Strategy and Policy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa (2011); and the Mekong River Commission Gender Policy and Strategy (2013).

^{xxii} The entirety of this paragraph was first published in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's 2019 policy brief, *Tapping our Potential: Women's Leadership in the Nile Basin*, co-authored by Jessica Troell and Elizabeth A Koch (Yaari), available at: <https://siwi.org/publications/tapping-our-potential-womens-water-leadership-in-the-nile-basin/>.

^{xxiii} For full text see: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/#resolution>

^{xxiv} Section summarized and adapted from Sundman, V., Dadvar, I., and Koch (Yaari), E. 2021. '[Making Waves: Youth Engagement in Water Diplomacy](#).' Stockholm International Water Institute. Stockholm, Sweden.

^{xxv} United Nations (2020), Security Council, Youth and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary- General, S/2020/167 (2 March 2020), available at <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/167>.

^{xxvi} Nilsson, D. (2012) Anchoring the Peace: Civil Society Actors in Peace Accords and Durable Peace, *International Interactions* vol 38(2), available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03050629.2012.659139>.

For more information on gender transformative approaches see the World Bank CIWA, Gender and Social Inclusion Framework, 2021

The Shared Waters Partnership was founded in 2010 as a platform to improve cooperation over shared waters in regions where water is, or may become, a source of conflict or where water can serve as a catalyst for peace. The overall objective of the SWP is peaceful cooperation between basin states sharing transboundary water sources. The SWP is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United States Department of State, the Government of the Netherlands, and the United Nations Development Programme. For more information on the Shared Waters Partnership programme please visit: <https://www.siwi.org/what-wedo/shared-waters-partnership>.

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network has been a core engagement of the Shared Waters Partnership programme since 2017 with focus on the Nile Basin and Central Asia and Afghanistan. The Network serves as an informal community of practice for formal and informal women water diplomats, collectively supporting women's participation in high-level water diplomacy processes. For more information about the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and its partners please visit: <https://siwi.org/swp-women-in-water-diplomacy-network>.

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